

The
PENNSYLVANIA STATE
CELEBRATION
OF THE
TWO HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE BIRTH OF
GEORGE WASHINGTON
★1932★



A brief statement of the *OBJECTS*
and *PROGRAM* as well as a *Request*
for the *Co-operation* of its political
sub-divisions in the *Celebration*
To Cultivate Greater Americanism



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GENERAL PROGRAM ADOPTED BY THE
PENNSYLVANIA STATE COMMISSION
FOR THE
NATION-WIDE CELEBRATION
OF THE
BIRTH OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

February 22 to Thanksgiving Day

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THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE COMMISSION FOR THE
CELEBRATION OF THE TWO HUNDREDTH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF
GEORGE WASHINGTON

HON. THAD. S. KRAUSE, *Chairman*
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HON. GEO. T. WEINGARTNER

HON. CHAS. W. SONES

HON. JAMES S. BOYD

HON. FRANCIS H. S. EDE

HON. EDWIN E. EMHARDT

HON. WM. C. ALEXANDER

HON. W. ALBERTSON HAINES

HON. C. J. GOODNOUGH

GOVERNOR GIFFORD PINCHOT, *Ex-Officio*

FOREWORD

It is indeed fitting that the heroic characters and the momentous events which made possible the formation, establishment and maintenance of this Nation, be recalled and commemorated by proper and fitting celebrations.

Each epoch has its patriots. They are inseparably connected with the life and destiny of this Republic. The most outstanding character in the history of the United States is GEORGE WASHINGTON, the first President. He will always be referred to as the *Father of his Country*. "His was the directing spirit without which there would have been no Independence, no Union, no Constitution, and no Republic. His influence grows! His stature increases."

The proposition is to celebrate, through the instrumentality of the Government and its political subdivisions, the two hundredth anniversary of his birth, by following a program commencing February 21, 1932, and continuing until November 24, 1932, inclusive.

This booklet, issued under the authorization of the Pennsylvania State Commission for the commemoration of the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of George Washington, is designed to acquaint the citizens with the program adopted by the Commission, and to invite the patriotic co-operation of the people of the State in the proper observance of the plans of this Nation-wide celebration.

Let us hope that every man, woman and child living under the protection of our Government will be prompted by patriotism to participate in this celebration, so that it may be worthy of the ideals and devotion which it is designed to commemorate.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Rod. S. Krause". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "R".

Chairman of the Commission.

PURPOSE AND CHARACTER OF THE CELEBRATION

A joint resolution of the Congress of the United States to study and recommend a proper celebration for 1932, of the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of George Washington, was approved December 2, 1924.

The motive for such action as expressed by Congress is, "that future generations of American citizens may live according to the example and precepts of his exalted life and character, and thus perpetuate the American Republic."

The President of the United States, at that time, Calvin Coolidge, as suggested by the resolution, delivered a masterful and inspiring address before the House of Congress, the members of the Cabinet, Supreme Court, members of the Bi-Centennial Commission, and many distinguished guests.

The President, during this eulogistic discourse, called to the attention of all his fellow Americans, that on the 22nd day of February, 1932, America will celebrate the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of George Washington, and also suggested that wherever there are those who love ordered liberty they may well join in the observance of that event.

The resolution of Congress expressed a desire, and extended an invitation, to all the States, Territories, and their political subdivisions, to co-operate with the Federal Government in the execution of the joint resolution of Congress.

The General Assembly of the State of Pennsylvania, appreciating the importance of such a project, passed a resolution which was approved May 6, 1925, to the end that the Bi-centennial anniversary of him who was "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen"—the pioneer, the soldier, the statesman, the husbandman, the exemplar of American citizenship, George Washington, may be fittingly commemorated in the year 1932.

PROGRAM

The National Commission has properly selected dates which suggest themselves as appropriate, and of fitting importance for such celebration. Most of these days have met the approval of the Pennsylvania Commission.

This Commission believes that the State of Pennsylvania is conspicuous as one in which George Washington was exceptionally active. This necessitated the singling out of special times and places made memorable by him, and the adding of them to the program for appropriate celebrations.

The County Committees, principally, are expected to sponsor the celebration of these places specially designated and located in their respective Counties.

February 21—Commemoration services in all the churches in memory of George Washington.

February 22—General display of flags and decorations. Special newspaper features, school exercises, assemblies with patriotic addresses made by speakers selected by the County Committee who are most likely to give the best eulogy of George Washington; pageants, plays and music. Public meetings with appropriate program so timed as to receive broadcasting of address by the President of the United States. At the close of the President's address, singing of "America" led by the Marine Band, broadcasting from Washington.

April 19—*Patriot's Day*. Anniversary of the Battle of Lexington. Special exercises everywhere under the auspices of patriotic organizations. The nineteenth of April has been known in this country since the year 1775 as Patriot's Day. On that date, British soldiers sent out from Boston through Lexington to Concord to capture military stores of the colonists met armed resistance and were driven back with heavy losses. That day meant that the patriots would defend their rights with their lives.

May 30—*Memorial Day*. In addition to the regular memorial exercises, special attention should be given to George Washington and his fellow soldiers of the Revolution. This can be done by an appropriate address and the placing of flowers before an arch, portrait, or other material memento of George Washington.

June 14—*Flag Day*. The flag should be flown everywhere and

exercises should be held and addresses made in its honor. Newspapers and other means available should be used in requesting citizens to display the flag.

July 4—A public reading of the Declaration of Independence and explanatory addresses thereon. Parade with floats depicting especially the life of George Washington.

September 5—*Labor Day*. In exercises customary for this day tribute should be paid to George Washington and referred to as the liberator and laborer for the good of mankind.

September 17—*Constitution Day*. Special meetings and programs under the direction of the Bar Association in every County of the State of Pennsylvania, devoted to serious consideration of the United States Constitution and the part which George Washington played in its preparation, adoption and ratification, especially as regards the type of government he and his collaborators intended it should be.

November 11—*Armistice Day*. The leadership of the celebration is usually held under the auspices of the American Legion and other veteran groups of the World War. Other military organizations could be asked to participate in parades with floats depicting the military phase of George Washington's life; pageants, cantatas and plays could be held in schools and other meetings of fraternal organizations.

November 24—*Thanksgiving Day*. In the customary Thanksgiving services as held in the various churches, references should be made to George Washington's character and the efforts he put forth towards the establishing of liberty, security and happiness. Concluding remarks giving thanks for the life and services of George Washington.

Arbor Day.—(Date set by proclamation of President). Beautification of entrances to Cities and Towns by the planting of trees and shrubbery.

Places specially designated for attention:—Valley Forge, Battle of Brandywine, and Washington's Crossing.

It is the thought of the Commission that County Committees would do well in holding special celebrations on such times and at such places of historical note in their respective Counties.

SUGGESTIONS MADE BY THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHOOLS

1. Playlets and pageants based upon episodes in the life of George Washington.—Furnished by the National Commission.
2. Special assembly exercises at which there will be readings, addresses, and music.—Help furnished by the Commission.
3. Study of the life of Washington by grade pupils and special research work by high-school students. Teachers to read interesting stories of Washington periodically during school term.—Suggestions furnished by the Commission.
4. In the primary grades, the preparation by individual pupils of scrap books of clippings about George Washington and his work, illustrated with pictures and original drawings.
5. National essay and oratorical contest and contests in the graphic arts. Local and State contests sponsored by newspapers.—Special medals for the winners to be given by the Commission.
6. Study of Washington's "Rules of Civility and Decent Behavior."
7. Observance of patriotic anniversaries throughout school season.
8. Tree planting, especially on Arbor Day.
9. Daily display of American flag on all school buildings or in grounds.
10. Display in every classroom of pictures of George Washington.—Furnished by the Commission.
11. Publication of a George Washington number of school papers.
12. General night meetings in schools attended by parents where various patriotic programs may be given.

FOR UNIVERSITIES

1. Adoption by faculties of resolutions embodying references to George Washington's character, example, service, and inspiration and indorsing the appropriateness of the celebration.
2. Debates and orations by literary societies.
3. George Washington sermons in chapels, February 22, 1932.
4. Posters in libraries and list of available books on George Washington.
5. Commemoration exercises with dissertations on Washington's life, character and example.

6. Publication of George Washington material in university papers and magazines.

7. Convocations for conferring honorary degrees in recognition of public services such as Washington's example suggests.

FOR PATRIOTIC SOCIETIES

It is suggested that all organizations adopt a resolution expressing approval of the celebration in 1932 of the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the Birth of George Washington and pledge their co-operation with the United States Commission.

1. Insist upon the prompt formation of a committee to initiate and direct the 1932 celebration in your community.

2. Adopt resolutions embodying references to George Washington's precepts of patriotism, religion, education and citizenship; his inspiration and service.

3. Publication of George Washington material and bi-centennial data and information in organs and reports; also individual plans and programs.

4. Stimulate the educational, informative, co-operative, and demonstrative features of the celebration.

5. Pilgrimages to places Washington visited, with appropriate programs on significant dates.

6. Read George Washington papers at meetings.

7. Display relics and art.

FOR HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

1. Adopt resolutions embodying references to George Washington's important place in history, his moulding of the Nation's body politic; his patriotism, his acts and achievements that stand out in history.

2. Publication of George Washington material and bi-centennial data and information in organs and reports.

3. Conspicuous display and exhibits of all Washingtoniana, relics and art.

4. Publication of bicentennial data on cards or in pamphlets for distribution to visitors with catalogue of Washingtoniana on display.

5. Stimulate the educational, informative, co-operative, and demonstrative features of the celebration.

6. Read George Washington papers at meetings.

7. Give library references to interested persons.

FOR CHURCHES AND RELIGIOUS BODIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

1. Sermons and special services February 21, 1932.

2. Emphasize George Washington's devotion to the Christian faith, his religious precepts and example.
3. Bodies and organizations adopt appropriate resolutions relative to the celebration and in reverent phrases pay tribute to George Washington, the man of conscience.
4. Bodies and organizations hold memorial exercises with addresses eulogistic of George Washington as a devout Christian and church worker.
5. Sunday School lessons on George Washington, the Christian, his prayers for the army and country, his religious precepts and example.
6. Sunday School lessons teaching "Washington's Rules of Civility."
7. Stimulate interest of Sunday School pupils in George Washington's essays in public schools.
8. Display pictures of George Washington in all Sunday School rooms.
9. Sunday School superintendents address pupils on George Washington on appropriate occasions.
10. Pilgrimages of Christians of all faiths to the George Washington Memorial Chapel at Valley Forge for devotions at the American Shrine.
11. George Washington material in religious organs and publications.

FOR BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS

Chambers of Commerce: Adopt resolutions of indorsement of the George Washington Bicentennial Celebration. (Form furnished by national commission upon request.) Appoint bicentennial committees to prepare programs for special public and organization meetings, to insist upon appointment of a committee by your city to insure an adequate civic celebration there, to work among business men to encourage distribution of literature at plants and business establishments to co-operate with State and local commissions and lend active help and encouragement to schools and other groups in various forms of observance.

The County Committees are respectfully requested to forward to the Pennsylvania State Commission the names and addresses of the members and officers immediately upon organization, in order that they may benefit in receiving from the State and National Commission, literature, playlets and pageant material depicting episodes in the life of George Washington.

